

HERPETOLOGY.—*A new frog of the genus Batrachylodes from the Solomon Islands.*¹

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In this paper we present the description of a very distinctive and beautiful little frog from the Solomon Islands, representing the second known species of the hitherto monotypic genus *Batrachylodes*. We are indebted to Miss Doris M. Cochran, of the U. S. National Museum, for the loan of the material upon which the new species is based, and to Walter L. Necker, who is working on Solomon herpetology, for his generosity in relinquishing claim to describe a new form which he himself collected.

In 1887 (p. 337) Boulenger described *Batrachylodes*, a new genus of Ranidae, on the basis of a single adult female from Faro (Fauro) Island, Solomons. This genus was defined as lacking vomerine teeth; tongue free posteriorly and only feebly indented; pupil horizontal; fingers and toes free, with large terminal disks; outer metatarsals united; omosternum and sternum with a bony style. As pointed out by Noble (1931, p. 524), the genus is apparently allied to *Cornufer* in the forked omosternum, though the opening is very small, and in the prominent digital disks. It differs in the absence of webs, vomerine teeth, and the transverse groove on the lower surface at the base of the disks. Sternfeld (1920, p. 435, pl. 31, figs. 8, 9) described and illustrated *Chaperina fredericii* and *Sphenophryne wolfi* from Buka Island, Solomon Islands. Both of these were later placed in the synonymy of *Batrachylodes vertebralis* Boulenger by Mertens (1929, pp. 266–268). Comparison of the descriptions and illustrations in Sternfeld's paper with the specimens before us indicates that Mertens was correct in his decision and that the present series of specimens represents an heretofore undescribed species.

Batrachylodes trossulus, n. sp.

Holotype.—U.S.N.M. no. 119577, adult male, collected at Torakina, Bougainville Island, Solomon Islands, by Walter L. Necker.

¹ Received July 14, 1949.

Paratypes.—Six specimens, U.S.N.M. nos. 119586–88 and 119787–89, from the type locality.

Definition.—A small *Batrachylodes* with disks of fingers round, scarcely dilated, swollen, and much smaller than those of the toes; disk of the third finger much smaller than the tympanum; forelimb and fingers very slender; lateral surface of the head and body black, this color fading out in the region of the groin but reappearing as an irregular dark bar on the inner side of the femur; ventral surface of head, throat, and pectoral region dusky red-brown (in preservative), occasionally spotted with white; the dark color extending as a diagonal bar from the shoulder across the upper arm.

Description of holotype.—Head narrow; snout moderately pointed, strongly projecting beyond the lower lip; chin with numerous small, white, hard, nuptial tubercles; vomerine teeth not present; tongue narrowly oval, not notched at the posterior free margin; nostril about equidistant from the tip of the snout and the anterior angle of the eye.

Forelimb moderately developed; fingers with swollen, round disks only slightly dilated at tip; diameter of disk of third finger about half that of tympanum; first finger not reaching the distal joint of second finger; subarticular tubercle poorly developed; inner and middle metacarpal tubercles broadly oval and moderately developed; outer somewhat smaller and not well developed; a fourth rounded tubercle occurring just posterior to the middle one and extending out beyond the inner edge of the outer one.

Tibiotarsal articulation reaches eye when hindlimb is appressed; toes without web, rather broadly expanded at the tips; disks much larger than those of fingers; subarticular tubercles moderately developed; inner metatarsal tubercle oval, elongate, its length equal to its distance from the tip of the fifth toe; outer metatarsal tubercle moderately distinct, round.

Skin smooth both above and below, and on limbs.

Color.—Dorsum gray with a tinge of pale reddish and suffused with dusky, particularly on the head; sides of head and body black with

a rather even, light-bordered, dorsal edge except on the posterior abdomen where the black color gradually disappears, reappearing as an uneven-margined, dark-brown or blackish bar on the outer surface of the thighs (when the hind limbs are extended) and as a very irregular or broken line on the outside of the lower leg; upper surfaces of the hindlimbs marked with rather narrow grayish-brown bands; belly white with a few brown spots; ventral surface of head, throat and pectoral region dark reddish brown with a few scattered small white spots in addition to the white tubercles of the chin region; darker along the lateral margins and continued as a broad irregular stripe on the anterior side of the upper and lower arm and the dorsal surface of the hand, and with a similar broad blackish stripe on the posterior side of the limb, not continuing on the palm, however; posterior proximal areas of thighs and anal region black.

*Measurements of holotype (in millimeters).—*Snout to vent 20, snout 3, diameter of eye 3, diameter of tympanum 1.65, length of hindlimb 30, breadth of head 6.5, length of tibia 10.

Variations and remarks.—Whereas *Batrachylodes vertebralis* from this same locality, Bougainville Island, shows much variability in both dorsal and ventral coloration, the seven specimens of *trossulus* are remarkably constant. The largest female (U.S.N.M. no. 119586) measures slightly less than 20 mm from tip of snout to vent; the smallest specimen (U.S.N.M. no. 119788), 14 mm. The small white nuptial tubercles on the chin and undersurface of the head of males also occur on the males of *B. vertebralis* from Bougainville and Ronongo Islands, which we have available for comparison.

A single specimen from Choiseul Island, Amer. Mus. Nat. Hist. no. 35425, is assigned to this species, which it fits very well on the basis of the

digital disks. However, in its present poor condition, it does not show the distinctive color pattern so evident in all the specimens of the series from Bougainville. This specimen was originally referred to *Rana solomonis* by Burt and Burt (1932, p. 491).

The two species of *Batrachylodes* may be distinguished as follows:

1. Disks of fingers rounded, little dilated, scarcely or not at all flat-tipped, smaller than those of toes; breadth of disk of third finger about half diameter of tympanum or less; throat and chest dark; posterior to this undersides of belly and thighs white; sides of body covered by a wide blackish band almost to groin, on all Bougainville examples seen (one from Choiseul doubtful); a smaller and apparently a less variable species than next.... *B. trossulus*
2. Disks of fingers broadly dilated, broadly elliptical, almost flat-tipped, larger than those of toes; breadth of disk of third finger about equal to or greater than diameter of tympanum; undersides of body with a variable dusting of dark chromatophores, never as in previous species; sides of body usually with an indistinct dark area on sides of head often continued back a little way behind head, never a wide black band; a larger and more variable species than preceding..... *B. vertebralis*

LITERATURE CITED

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PROCEEDINGS OF THE ACADEMY

430TH MEETING OF BOARD OF MANAGERS

The 430th meeting of the Board of Managers, held in the Cosmos Club, September 19, 1949, was called to order at 8:05 P.M. by the President, F. H. H. ROBERTS, Jr. Also present were: F. B. SILSBEE, H. S. RAPPLEYE, N. R. SMITH, ALAN STONE, F. M. DEFANDORF, C. L. GAZIN, F. E. JOHNSTON, C. F. W. MUESEBECK, F. A. WEISS, W. A. DAYTON, C. A. BETTS, A. O. FOSTER, MARGARET PITTMAN, H. W. HEMPLE, H. G.

DORSEY, F. M. SETZLER, and, by invitation, HERBERT FRIEDMANN, J. E. GRAF, M. A. MASON, and L. W. PARR.

The President announced the appointment on June 14 of FRANK THONE and PAUL H. OEHSEER to represent the Academy on the Committee for the Science Calendar. Owing to the death of WILLIAM J. ROONEY, FRED L. MOHLER was appointed Chairman of the Physical Sciences Committee on Awards for Scientific Achievement, and